

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member
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Published by Lauren Doak

Residents of District E,

The first quarter of 2011 might be the busiest that we have been at city hall. There are numerous issues that have to be addressed, with strong feelings and emotions aplenty. First is the debate on how to arrive at the costs for Prop 1 (the rain tax). Second is the redistricting process, which not only redraws lines, but adds two new council districts. Third is the CIP process, which leads to community meetings for input. Last is the beginning of the budget process, which begins in earnest in a couple of months.

You can find specific information about the above meetings in this newsletter. I would encourage you and your neighbors to come out to as many meetings as possible. Do not be complacent and let others have their voices heard over yours. Believe me when I tell you this, but there will be organized groups out there fighting against our best interests. Prop 1 has its supporters, the redistricting folks have their agenda, and CIP/Budget always brings out conflicting interests. Your voice has to be heard, and my job is to make sure it is.

There are a handful of projects that will kick off soon. Kingwood will see the start of construction on its new community center; Sagemont's new community center will break ground in March; Sylvan Rodriguez Park expansion will begin next year; Sabo Road construction is scheduled to begin this month; a major flood study will take place at and around Ellington Airport, and other smaller projects are being planned for my council district.

I want to thank our police and fire departments for the fine work they do for us. During the Christmas break, I rode with HPD in the Clear Lake and South Belt portions of my district. I then spent time with our Kingwood fire fighters, having various meals and meetings with them. Doing this type of field work gives me a chance to hear first hand what their challenges and successes are. That allows me to go back and advocate for the programs that work, and to fight for the resources that they need to protect our property, lives, businesses and homes.

Lastly, let me urge you to take advantage of our monthly online survey questions. If you will take a minute to complete the survey, it will give me the feedback that I need to properly represent you as the District E City Council Member.

Thank you for the privilege to serve you.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

Texas House of Representatives' 2011 Inauguration

Council Member Sullivan joined several from the Kingwood community in Austin on January 11, to celebrate the swearing-in of State Representative Dan Huberty. Huberty was surrounded by his family, friends and community leaders including Humble ISD Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo and Trustees Charles Cunningham, Dave Martin and Lynn Fields during the event at the state Capitol.

Council Member Sullivan has worked with Representative Huberty in the Kingwood community for years and looks forward to continuing to serve their respective constituents.



Station 103 ATV Unveiling



Council Member Sullivan gives brief remarks and thanks HFD Chief Terry Garrison for supporting the purchase of the ATV for Kingwood.

Council Member Sullivan was proud to unveil the Houston Fire Department's new All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) in Kingwood on January 27. The council member was joined by HFD Chief Terry Garrison, Station 103's C-shift and members of various community organizations for the unveiling.

During a visit to Station #103, Council Member Sullivan realized the fire department did not have a way to navigate through the Kingwood green belts. Without delay he began the process of requesting an ATV to better serve the community should there ever be an emergency. The ATV began service Monday, January 31 and will be used to access the green belts, sports fields and other inaccessible areas to fire apparatus' and EMS units for patient removal. This vehicle will allow for quicker patient contact time and transportation and will be a vital piece of equipment for the community.

Houston Arts Alliance Meeting

Council Member Sullivan and the Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) hosted a community meeting about available grants HAA offers to arts based and non-profit organizations on January 13 at Creekwood Middle School. Council Member Sullivan has been vocal about returning these monies to the District E community and has worked closely with HAA in the recent months arranging the meetings. Roughly 25 representatives from various organizations in the Kingwood community attended the meeting. All walked away with a wealth of knowledge about the grants offered, various HAA programs and the panel review process individual applicants must go through.

Council Member Sullivan thanks HAA CEO Jonathon Glus, Fleurette Fernando, Crystal Benavides and Sontera Dresch for attending the meeting and presenting the information. He also thanks Ryland Holmes for working with his staff to arrange the meetings in his district.



Jonathon Glus, Sontera Dresch, Fleurette Fernando, Crystal Benavides and Council Member Sullivan after the meeting

Homes for Our Troops Ceremony



Council Member Sullivan, Nancy Johnson and Representative Dan Huberty

Council Member Sullivan attended a ceremony in Kingwood on January 22 for wounded warrior Anthony Thompson and his family. Thompson, who was injured during his second deployment to Iraq in 2007, received a new home provided by Homes for Our Troops. He was welcomed home by a patriotic community and spirited neighbors.

Council Member Sullivan had the privilege and honor of presenting Thompson with a proclamation from the City of Houston, and commended him for his service and sacrifice for his country. Representative Dan Huberty also presented Thompson with a proclamation and a flag that flew over the State Capitol in his name.

Kingwood Medical Center's New Patient Center

The Kingwood Medical Center celebrated the completion of their new Patient Center on January 20 with a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce and the Community Chamber of Commerce of East Montgomery County. The expansion, which took two years to complete and is worth \$27 million, added two new floors, 56 beds and more growing space to the hospital. Council Member Sullivan serves on the board of the Kingwood Medical Center and has been involved with the project since day one. He attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and had the opportunity to tour the new facility, which will accommodate at least 4,000 more patients annually and will allow the hospital to hire nearly 225 new employees.



Council Member Sullivan and the doctors of the new Patient Center.

Hunter's Ridge Village Meeting

The Hunter's Ridge Village home owner's association invited Council Member Sullivan to speak at their monthly meeting on January 28. He spoke about recent issues affecting the city including the implementation of Proposition 1 (the Rain Tax), redistricting efforts as well as Houston Police Department and Houston Fire Department issues that directly affect the safety of the residents of Kingwood. He also gave updates to projects happening in the community including the construction of the new Kingwood Community Center, which will begin soon and the widening of North Park Drive, which is on schedule and anticipated to be substantially completed by April 2011.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the Hunter's Ridge Village for inviting him to speak and encourages the home owner's to reach out to his office with any questions, concerns or suggestions they might have.

Project Updates

- The design of the new Kingwood Community Center is complete. Bids were received January 13, and construction is anticipated to begin in April.
- The widening of Northpark Drive is under construction. Substantial completion is set for late April 2011.
- Intersection improvements at Woodland Hills and Northpark Drive are complete. Improvements at West Lake Houston Parkway and Kingwood Drive began in June and are now complete as well.

Fuqua Water Line Update

The City of Houston's Public Works Department is currently constructing a 72-inch water line on Fuqua from Stover to Moers Rd. in order to support the subsidence mandate and to utilize capacity at the Southeast water purification plant. The surface water will benefit the local southeast residents and ultimately the Texas Medical Center. During the design of the 72-inch waterline, Public Works found it to be the public's best interest to replace an existing 12-inch waterline as well that provides water to residences and businesses along Fuqua.

During construction, traffic will continue to be diverted to one side of the street to maintain two-way traffic flow and also to provide the maximum amount of safety to the traveling public by separating the construction activities from traffic. This set up will remain in place throughout the installation of the 72-inch and 12-inch waterlines and restoration of the road. The contractor is scheduled to have the road completely re-opened by early June 2011.

The work along Fuqua will be done by Texas Sterling Construction. Construction costs are worth approximately \$7.5 million and are being paid through City of Houston water and sewer funds. This includes the 72-inch waterline, the 12-inch waterline replacement, the reconstruction of two lanes of pavement and the removal and replacement of other utilities for installation of the 72-inch waterline. The additional \$4.4 million appropriated for this project is to be used for work at the Southwest pump station.

For more information, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at (832) 393.3008.

HFD Retirement Ceremony

Houston Fire Department District Chief Terry Hackemack retired last month after 41 years of service to the City of Houston. Council Member Sullivan attended his retirement ceremony held at Station #70, located at 11410 Beamer Rd, among Hackemack's friends, family and colleagues. Council Member Sullivan also presented the district chief with a certificate of special recognition acknowledging him for his commitment to loyalty, courage and duty to the city and as a distinguished member of the Houston Fire Department. He thanks him for his years of service and wishes him well in the future.



District Chief Terry Hackemack and Council Member Sullivan at Station 70 following the retirement ceremony.

Buffalo Marine Christening Ceremony



Council Member Sullivan proclaims January 14 as the City of Houston's official "M/V San Brooklyn Day."

On January 14, Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity to present an official City of Houston proclamation to Buffalo Marine Services, Inc. during a christening ceremony for their new boat the M/V San Brooklyn. The San Brooklyn, which was built to green standards, is one of the first of its kind to be delivered with a US Coast Guard-issued towing vessel inspection sticker in advance of the forthcoming towing vessel inspection regulations. Buffalo Marine Services, Inc. has continued to lead the way in safety and training standards and prides itself for their pollution-free environment practices.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Buffalo Marine's Pat Studdert for asking him to be part of the ceremony.

Project Updates

- Installation of ball field lights at Blackhawk Park was recently approved by city council. Installation is set to begin in January 2011.
- Sabo Road construction is scheduled to begin February 2011.
- Sagemont Community Center design work is complete. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2011.
- City council approved a \$70,000.00 contract for a comprehensive flood study at and around Ellington Airport.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park has been installed.

Houston Arts Alliance Meeting



Council Member Sullivan with HAA representatives Fleurette Fernando, Crystal Benavides, Richard Graber and District E South Sector Manager Lauren Doak

Council Member Sullivan and the Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) hosted a community meeting about available grants HAA offers to arts based and non-profit organizations on January 19 at San Jacinto College – South. Council Member Sullivan has been vocal about returning these monies to the District E community and has worked closely with HAA in the recent months arranging the meetings. Roughly 20 representatives from various organizations in the South Belt and Clear Lake communities attended the meeting.

Council Member Sullivan thanks HAA Programs Director Richard Graber, Fleurette Fernando, Crystal Benavides and Sontera Dresch for attending the meeting and presenting the information. He also thanks Ryland Holmes for working with his staff to arrange the two meetings in his district, both in the north and south.

For more information about the Houston Arts Alliance and the grants and programs they offer, please visit www.houstonartsalliance.com.

CCISD School Board Appreciation Month



Council Member Sullivan and the CCISD School Board

Last month, Council Member Sullivan presented the Clear Creek Independent School District's school board with an official City of Houston proclamation proclaiming January 2011 as "Clear Creek ISD School Board Appreciation Month." The school board continues to convey the highest level of leadership by proving that quality education is what matters. With this leadership, the district has continued to be recognized by the Texas Education Agency for their outstanding work and most recently earned an Exemplary Rating.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith and the entire school board for their continued dedication and accomplishments.

BAHEP's Quasar Award Ceremony

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership hosted their annual Quasar Award ceremony on January 21 at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center in League City. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison was this year's recipient and earned the award for her outstanding leadership and contribution to economic development for the Bay Area. Specifically, Senator Hutchison was acknowledged for her active role in securing NASA funding and saving thousands of jobs as well as her leading role on behalf of Ellington Airport.

Council Member Sullivan joined other elected officials, BAHEP members and community leaders at the award ceremony to acknowledge the outstanding work Senator Hutchison has done for the Bay Area. The council member worked closely with Sen. Hutchison and others this past year regarding NASA funding and job retention and believes the senator has been an effective champion for JSC issues. He has been honored to work with her and congratulates her for receiving this outstanding award.

Fish Place Ribbon Cutting

Council Member Sullivan helped welcome Fish Place Cajun Seafood to the Clear Lake area at a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce on January 19. The restaurant, which is located at 1227 Bay Area Blvd., was established in 2005 as a franchise and has grown to several locations throughout the Houston area.

Council Member Sullivan was happy to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony by presenting a certificate to the owners wishing them much success in the community and the Chamber.

Pictured to the right: Council Member Sullivan with Fish Place Cajun Seafood owner's Mr. and Mrs. Chou.



Bay Area Republican Women's Club Luncheon

On January 26, the Bay Area Republican Women's Club held their monthly luncheon at Bay Oaks Country Club featuring guest speaker Commissioner Jack Morman. Commissioner Morman, who was elected in November, introduced himself to the membership and spoke about his priorities while in office. Council Member Sullivan attended the luncheon with his guest Dan Seal from the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

Council Member Sullivan previously met with Commissioner Morman about the needs of the constituents they both serve, and looks forward to working with him in the future.

Project Updates

- Sylvan Rodriguez Park is currently in the programming phase. Construction is scheduled to begin fiscal year 2012.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$100 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.
- The Houston – Galveston Area Council Pedestrian Bicyclist Special District Study began this month.

CIP Meetings

Council Member Sullivan and the Mayor's Citizen's Assistance Office are hosting two Capital Improvement Projects in District E this February. Please note the following dates, times and locations:

South

Monday, February 14

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

J. Frank Dobie High School
10220 Blackhawk

North

Monday, February 21

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Woodbridge Baptist Church
5707 Kingwood Drive

CIP meetings are held every year to inform citizens of upcoming projects that are scheduled in their respective communities. The meetings also afford citizens an opportunity to voice their concerns and address their respective city officials. Citizens can fill out a CIP request form at any time by visiting www.houstontx.gov by clicking on 3-1-1 icon or by calling 3-1-1 directly. For more information and specific details of the CIP projects in your area, please visit www.houstontx.gov/cip/index.html.

Committee Update

Water Resources Management: Council Member Sullivan chaired a WRM Committee meeting in January to discuss Houston's water quality and regulations as well as the Coastal Water Authority's 2011 budget. Public Works Director Daniel Krueger led the discussions regarding water quality and addressed concerns that were recently broadcasted in the media. Later in the meeting, Public Works Deputy Director Jun Chang presented the 2011 budget for the Coastal Water Authority who has a contract with the City of Houston. The CWA will focus their efforts in 2011 on the Trinity River Conveyance System as well as additional pumpage at Lake Houston facilities.



UH Tier One Announcement



Council Member Sullivan and University of Houston President Renu Khator

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching announced last month that the University of Houston has been categorized as a research university with “very high research activity,” the highest classification given to research universities and the equivalent of Tier One status. UH is now one of three universities in Texas that has achieved such status and now shares the title with such schools as the University of Texas and Texas A&M University. Council Member Sullivan helped celebrate this achievement at an event hosted by UH President Renu Khator on January 28 at the Cullen Performance Hall. He has been supportive of the university working towards earning this accomplished rating, and has worked with the board of trustees and also issued a letter of support to the university. He congratulates the administration, faculty, staff and students for this outstanding achievement.

TX Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson’s Inauguration

Commissioner Jerry Patterson was sworn during a ceremony on January 4 in Austin for his third term as the Texas Land Commissioner. Following his career as state senator for District 11 (Harris, Galveston and Brazoria counties), Commissioner Patterson first took office as the land commissioner in 2002. Nine years later he continues to serve the state by managing state resources for the benefit of public education.

Council Member Sullivan attended the swearing-in ceremony alongside Representative Dan Huberty. He congratulates the commissioner for his continued success.



Representative Dan Huberty, TX Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson and Council Member Sullivan

METRO Rail Stop and Think



METRO’s John Sedlak and Council Member Sullivan in front of the newly wrapped rail car

METRO recently unveiled their new METRORail car wrapped entirely in red that reads “Stop. Think.” during an unveiling event for officials, employees and the media. This is one step that METRO Chairman Gilbert Garcia and METRO President George Greanias have taken in order to improve safety for their passengers. Other steps that have been taken include in-pavement lights, LED back plates on 24 hour traffic signals and an educational campaign at 22 HISD schools. Council Member Sullivan has worked closely with METRO and has been supportive of the Chairman and President’s initiatives.

The rail car will be wrapped for six months and METRO encourages its patrons to give them your feedback.

HFD Air Pack Tour

Council Member Sullivan toured the Houston Fire Department's Air Pack facility on January 12 to get better acquainted with the facility and learn more about the equipment used by Houston's fire fighters. While touring, Council Member Sullivan also had the opportunity to look at the new All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) that was reserved for and recently unveiled at Station #103 in Kingwood. This vehicle will be used to service remote in and around Kingwood including areas such as greenbelts, parks, etc.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Captain Beda Kent for arranging and leading the tour.



Council Member Sullivan and Captain Beda Kent look at the new ATV that will be kept at Station 103.

Michael Berry Interview



Council Member Sullivan at the 950AM station with Michael Berry

Council Member Sullivan was asked to interview with 950AM radio show host Michael Berry last month regarding allegations against the Houston Fire Department's Station 108, which were made by Council Member Jolanda Jones. Council Member Sullivan reacted by expressing that he thinks the accusations that were made falsely represent the men and women of the Houston Fire Department. During his first two terms in office, Council Member Sullivan has not received a single complaint against a fire fighter. He has been a staunch supporter of the department and will continue to support them while in office.

Council Member Sullivan has urged Mayor Parker to look into these allegations. A full investigation by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently being conducted.

Houston Dynamo Press Conference

The Houston Dynamo held a press conference on January 24 following their opening training day practice. Dynamo CEO Chris Canetti, Assistant Coach Wade Barrett and several of the players were in attendance as they spoke about the upcoming season and anticipated the ground breaking of their new stadium, which is to be located east of downtown. Council Member Sullivan has been a proud supporter of the team and has worked closely with Chris Canetti as plans have developed for the team's new home.

He has also had discussions with Canetti about the high number of soccer players, organizations and Dynamo fans in the Kingwood and Clear Lake communities. Council Member Sullivan is hopeful that teams from District E will be able to partner with the Dynamo in the near future, and will be able to use the team's new practice fields for games, tournaments, etc.



Dynamo players Geoff Cameron and Brian Ching with Council Member Sullivan

HPOU Board Members Sworn In

Council Member Sullivan helped welcome the Houston Police Officer Union new and returning board members during a swearing in ceremony on January 6. Council Member Sullivan attended the ceremony at HPOU headquarters located at 1600 State St. He has continued to support the union and has consistently worked with HPOU President Gary Blankenship on various issues affecting the department.

The Houston Police Officers Union is the sole organization that represents the men and women of the Houston Police Department. Since its inception, HPOU has been the leading organization to distribute important news to its members and to negotiate with the city on behalf of police officers.

Texas Bowl at Reliant Stadium



Last month, Baylor University and the University of Illinois went head to head at the Texas Bowl at Houston's Reliant Stadium. Council Member Sullivan attended the game with Kingwood resident and Harris County Sports Authority Board Member Dave Martin. During the game, Martin and Council Member Sullivan sat with ESPN Marketing Director Rusty Reed. The three had discussions relating to future sporting events in Houston and the positive economic impact such events could have on the city. Council Member Sullivan intends to pursue having more sporting events hosted in Houston and will continue the discussion with Mayor Parker.

Council Member Sullivan, Rusty Reed, Dave Martin and Rodney Reed

Heavy Trash

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind his constituents that during the month of February the city's Solid Waste Management Department will only pick up **Junk Waste**. Junk Waste is defined as furniture, appliances and other bulky material. Resident's who receive City of Houston trash pick up service can legally put junk waste out at 6:00 p.m. the Friday before their designated pick-up day. Tree waste is accepted during Junk Waste months. However, to ensure that your Tree Waste is recycled you may hold your tree waste materials until the next Tree Waste designated month or take it to a neighborhood depository.

For more information please visit the Solid Waste Management Department's website at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste

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